

### Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Congressional Leaders

May 5, 1993

#### **Bosnia**

**Q.** Mr. President, will you be going to Congress to get authorization before any troops would be sent to Bosnia?

**The President.** We're here consulting about Bosnia today, and I have been extensively consulting, and no decision has been made by this administration about this yet. So when I do, then we'll continue to have proper process.

**Q.** Do you think the War Powers Act is constitutional?

**The President.** Ask my lawyer. I don't play lawyer. I think it's worked reasonably well.

**Q.** How do you think the vote will go in the Serb parliament?

**The President.** I don't know. I hope they'll not only vote for it, I hope they'll observe it, which is two different issues. We have to start our meeting here in a minute, but I think one of the things that we have to discuss is that we want an agreement in words and an agreement in fact. And that's what we've got to watch.

**Q.** Are you feeling any comfort in what Mr. Christopher is saying? It sounds as though he's running into roadblocks.

**The President.** No, I talked to him several times since he's been on the trip. I'm pretty pleased, actually, with the progress he's made. We're in a much different place and much nearer agreement than we were 10 or 12 days ago.

**Q.** Have you and Senator Dole made up?

**The President.** Absolutely. I agree with what he said yesterday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### Remarks in Honor of National Nurses Week and an Exchange With Reporters

May 5, 1993

**The President.** Thank you very much, Ginny, for that wonderful statement and the introduction. And thank you, Secretary Shalala, for everything you said. I noticed a few groans in the audience when you pointed out that Dorothea Dix worked for nothing. I don't think she was suggesting that you do that, I think she was volunteering to do that, don't you think? [Laughter]

I want to say, you know, I knew nurses were miracle workers, having been raised by one. But I don't see how you staved off the rain today. When I first heard 100 nurses were going to be here I thought to myself, what else can I do? I've given up junk food. I run every day. What more do you want of me? [Laughter] I'm doing my part.

I want to say a special word of acknowledgement, too, to the nurses who are in this audience who work here at the White House, who care for me and my family and are available to the other people who work here. They do a wonderful job, and I'm very grateful to them. And they're here and there and around, and I thank them for their presence here.

I'd also like to pay a special word of tribute to your president, Ginny Trotter Betts, for hanging it out there with us in the election and bringing the support for the American Nurses Association and also for being such a forceful advocate of sweeping reforms in our health care system. Hillary and I very much appreciate the work that she and the Nurses Association have done. And I know that she's also an old friend of Al and Tipper Gore's, and they're grateful, too, for her contributions.

I'd also like to recognize some of the other people who are here today, including a remarkable nurse whose presence in the Congress is a symbol of your political strength, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson from Dallas and my dear friend. She's really a tribute to the practice of good health. I've known her for 20 years, and I look much older, and she looks younger than she did the first time we met.